

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 12261

NESCO

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT: 94TH EXBD: ITEM 9.2: GUINEA-BISSAU MEMBERSHIP IN
UNESCO; AND ITEM 4.4.4: INVITATIONS TO AFRICAN
CULTURAL CONFERENCE

1. POSITION PAPERS FOR SUBJECT ITEMS RESPECTIVELY IN-
STRUCT PERMDEL TO VOTE AGAINST G-B MEMBERSHIP, INCLUDING
INSTRUCTION TO OBJECT TO POSSIBLE RESOLUTIONS WELCOMING
G-B INDEPENDENCE, AND TO OBJECT TO POSSIBLE INVITATION OF
PORTUGUESE TERRITORIES IN AFRICAN CULTURAL CONFERENCE.
G-B ENTRY WILL BE CONSIDERED BY UNESCO EXBD ON JUNE 25
AND CONFERENCE INVITATIONS ON MAY 28.

2. IN VIEW APPARENTLY FAST-MOVING EVOLUTION OF NEW
GOP'S POLICIES TOWARD AFRICAN TERRITORIES, IT WOULD SEEM
NEITHER NECESSARY NOR ADVISEABLE THAT US RUN RISK OF
TAKING POSITIONS AT UNESCO THAT MAY LAG BEHIND OR ARE
MORE UNFLEXIBLE THAN GOP'S AND WHICH WILL ISOLATE US IN
POSITION AGAINST THIRD WORLD, PARTICULARLY ARAB-AFRICAN
GROUP.

3. IN INTERIM PERMDEL WOULD URGE MOST CAREFUL CONSI-
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DERATION BY DEPT OF PERMDEL TAKING "ABSTAIN" POSITIONS

ON BOTH ITEMS. US OBJECTION TO POSSIBLE INCLUSION OF PORTUGUESE AFRICANS IN INVITATIONS FOR AFRICAN CULTURAL CONFERENCE WOULD BE OFFENSIVE TO AFRICANS, PARTICULARLY AS THIS CONCERNS ONLY THEIR REGIONAL GROUP. LDC'S IN UNESCO GENERALLY VOTE IN SUCH CASES ACCORDING TO MAJORITY WISHES OF REGIONAL GROUP MEMBERS CONCERNED.

4. RE G-B ENTRY, PERMDEL NOTES PORTUGAL NOT REPEAT NOT A MEMBER OF UNESCO AND THEREFORE MAY BE LESS SENSITIVE TO US SILENCE ON G-B ENTRY HERE THAN IN OTHER UN AGENCIES. IN ANY CASE, IT LIKELY ALL OTHER WESTERN MEMBERS OF EXBD WILL ABSTAIN AND THAT US WOULD BE CONSPICUOUSLY ALONE IN OPPOSING G-B.

5. MOST IMPORTANTLY, PROBABLE EXBD RECOMMENDATION FOR G-B MEMBERSHIP MUST RECEIVE FINAL APPROVAL OF UNESCO 18TH GEN. CON. THIS FALL. GEN. CON. WILL ALSO VOTE ON POLITICAL ISSUES OF SIGNIFICANCE TO US INTERESTS FOR WHICH AFRICAN SUPPORT, WHETHER IN FORM OF ABSTENTIONS OR POSITIVE VOTES, WILL BE IMPORTANT. THESE INCLUDE VIRTUAL CERTAINTY OF CHALLENGES TO CREDENTIALS OF RVN AND ESPECIALLY KHMER REPUBLIC, AS WELL AS VOTE ON US APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN EUROPEAN REGIONAL GROUP. EXPLICIT US OPPOSITION TO G-B ENTRY WILL PRECLUDE ANY LEVERAGE WITH AFRICANS AND, INDEED, MIGHT PROVOKE UNFAVORABLE RETALIATORY VOTES ON ABOVE ISSUES.

6. OUR SOUNDINGS INDICATE THAT EVEN AFRICANS MOST FAVORABLY DISPOSED TO US MAY INTERPRET ISOLATED AMERICAN OPPOSITION TO G-B ENTRY AS SUGGESTIVE OF COMPLETE US INDIFFERENCE TO AFRICAN SENSITIVITIES. GENEVA GROUP MEMBERS MAY INTERPRET US OPPOSITION AS LACK OF POLITICAL REALISM, AND IT IS DOUBTFUL IF ANY WOULD SUPPORT US POSITION.

7. PLEASE ADVISE.
IRWIN

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